



August 22, 2008

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EX PARTE LETTER

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Leslie F. Smith,
Federal Communications Commission,
Room 1-C216,
445 12th Street, SW,
Washington, D.C. 20554
Leslie.Smith@fcc.gov

**Re: Rural Health Care Support Mechanism WC Docket 02-60;
Rural Health Care Pilot Program; Paperwork Reduction Act Comments**

Embarq Corporation, hereby respectfully submits its comments on the forms, attachments (including network cost worksheet), and other information collection requirements of the Rural Health Care Program/Rural Health Care Pilot Program in response to the Federal Register Notice published on June 23, 2008.¹

Embarq recommends a modest but important change to the Certification of Vendor form used in the Commission's Rural Health Care Pilot Program (Pilot Program).² Embarq believes that this straightforward modification will provide greater clarity of the requirement of participants to ensure that all Pilot Program funding is used in a manner consistent with the Commission's Rural Health Care Pilot Program Selection Order.³

¹ *Notice of Public Information Collection(s) Being Reviewed by the Federal Communications Commission, Comment Requested* 73 Fed. Reg. 35390 (2008).

² *See Rural Health Care Support Mechanism, WC Docket No. 02-60, Order, FCC 07-198 (rel. Nov. 19, 2007) (Rural Health Care Pilot Program Selection Order).*

³ *See Id.*

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The change Embarq proposes to the recommended form (*see* Attachment A) will help ensure that participants and vendors collaborate to have consistent knowledge of what is and what is not eligible use of Pilot Program funding. It will help ensure that participants exercise appropriate care in making representations to vendors about their use of Pilot Program funds. It will also help foster a greater understanding that all Pilot Program funding is to be used only for eligible Pilot Program purposes, thereby enhancing USAC's efforts to minimize errors and to prevent waste, fraud and abuse.

Embarq's proposed modification will also promote the public interest and aid in administering this important program. Accordingly, Embarq requests that its recommendation be considered and adopted.

Respectfully submitted,



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ATTACHMENT A

Vendor Letterhead

Certification of [Vendor]

I, _____[name of corporate officer], on behalf of _____[Vendor name] (SPIN _____) certify and swear under the penalty of perjury, that to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, and as represented to [Vendor] by Participant, all federal Rural Health Care Pilot Program support provided to us will be used only for eligible Pilot Program purposes for which the support is intended, as described in the Pilot Program Order (WC Docket 02-60; FCC 07-498, released November 19, 2007), and consistent with related FCC orders, section 254(h)(2)(A) of the Telecommunications Act of 1934, as amended, and Parts 54.601 *et. seq.* of the FCC's rules.

_____(signature)

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

NOTARIZED BY: _____
